Gardener Grows Texas-Size Onions

The following is a release from The National Garden Bureau about Robert E. Sanders, Iowa home gardener. While all of the practices are not necessary Virginia Extension Service recommendations, it is a story that home gardeners will enjoy, J. A. Smith, Appomattox Extension Agent, said.

"These are my onion sets for next year. I can grow really big ones from these . . ."

That's what William R. Windsor, a long-time member of the Men's Garden Clubs of America and a fellow Iowa home gardener, kiddingly tells friends and neighbors who marvel at his giant onions, many of which are specimen size and weigh two pounds or more.

"Except for the fact that I follow my family's farming tradition of always planting onions and other crops that grow underground by the 'dark of the moon', there's nothing mysterious about growing really big onions.

"One 'basic', however, is to start onions as early as you possibly can. Many gardeners wait too long. Every day of additional growth adds to the ultimate size of the bulb.

"With onion seeds, for example, this means planting indoors about 2-3 months before you plan to set out transplants. In cooler climates, February 1 is about right.

"For best growth, sow seeds thinly in a container about 5-6 in. deep filled with a mixture of sterilizing potting soil and a pinch of fertilizer. Provide good light.

"Of the various ways to grow onions, seeds offer a two-way advantage over onion sets or plants: lowest cost and widest choice of varieties. For extra vigor, I stick to hybrid Yellow Sweet Spanish varieties.

"Here in Central Iowa, seeds can be sown right in the garden as early as March 1 if the planting area was prepared the previous fall. But you'll get larger onions by starting seeds indoors.

"If you miss the early indoor seeding, try pre-started plants available from seed catalogs and garden centers. If you buy plants locally, search out the freshest-looking bunches with the longest roots - and get 'em in early. Really big onion bulbs can't be grown from sets.

"Regardless of which method of growing onions you use, there are three other 'basics' for growing Texas-size bulbs other than early planting: soil (extra rich), space (as much as 6 in. between plants) and sunlight (the more the better.)

"Like cucumbers and most other crops, onions grow best in humus-rich soil. I always dig in plenty of manure or compost in the onion patch. Fall is the best time to do this. Before planting, I rake in some 5-10-10 fertilizer and wood ashes (for added potash) in the top 3 inches. During the growing season, I give my onions a 5-10-10 boost along with some fish emulsion.

"Proper spaceing is important. Don't crowd'em. I set out plants 3 inches apart. During late spring and summer, I thin by 'harvesting' every other plant. Some are used as scallions; others are harvested at various stages of growth. The main crop for dry onions is left to mature with ample 6-inch spacing for the expanding bulbs.

"Long, lonely rows of onions with a foot or so between rows is a waste of good garden space, in my opinion. I plant my onions in broad bands at least a foot wide. If space is limited, try a 2½-ft. wide band of onion spaced 3 inches apart in all directions (length of row is optional). This is roughly the length of your arm - just reach in form one side to weed and harvest.

"Mulch between rows to retain soil moisture and eliminate weeds, which onions simply cannot tolerate. Add some mulch between plants too - but never pull it up to the plant as you would with lettuce. Keep well watered.

"Avod a shady site. Put your onions where they'll receive full sun. To expose the bulb to maximum sunlight, brush soil away from each plant so that only one-third of the bulb is underground. This is very important for optimum bulb development.

"Once roughly two-thirds of the tops have withered, bend the remaining tops down with a rake. Dry out bulbs thoroughly - three or four weeks - before storage. A good place to dry onions is on a concrete driveway. Store in a cold, dry, dark place.

"Extra early planting, super rich soil, generous space between plants and plenty of sun, mulch and water - those are the secrets of giant onions guaranteed to be the envy of your neighborhood.

COOKBOOKS TO AID CANCER FUND DRIVE

The 1978 VIP Cookbooks are now available from your local American Cancer Society board members. This outstanding cookbook will be given free to each individual donating $5.00 or more to the 1977-78 Fund Drive. Featured in this cookbook will be recipes from the homes of all U. S. Senators and Congressmen plus all well known Virginia hostesses and restaurants. If you are interested please contact one of the following board members: Mrs. Mary Alma Hudson, Mrs. Mirian Harwood, Mrs. June Chenault or Mrs. Janet Noble. The members have a few of the 1977 VIP Cookbooks available which were Northern Virginian recipes.

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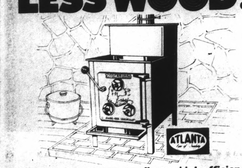

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Overflow Crowd Attends Appreciation Service Honoring Rev. R. Q. Lawing Sunday at 3 p.m.

An unusually large crowd of friends, relatives and well wishes from every section of the county, near by counties, cities and several different states, attended the special service last Sunday evening at 3 p.m. at the Canaan Baptist Church. The following program was arranged and carried out in a very fine manner with the Rev. J. P. Rose, pastor of the Springfield Baptist Church serving as master of ceremony. Special music was rendered by members of the Galilee, Mount Shiloh and Promise Land Senior Choirs. Processional "If I Can Help Somebody" by the choir; Prayer, Rev. H.O. Flood; Scripture, Rev. Roy Wood, Pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church; Music Choir; Welcome, Rev. C. L. Elliott, pastor of the church; Music, choir; High Lights of 45 years of living service, Mrs. H. P. James; Introduction of speaker, Rev. J. D. Scruggs, pastor of Rising Sun Baptist Church; Music, Choir; Sermon, Rev. H. W. Pryor, pastor of the Mount Airy Baptist Church; Music, choir; Offering, deacon George W. Scruggs assisted by deacons Stewart Robinson, deacon Calvin Elliott and deacon William Hancock; Echoes, Rev. W. R. Jones, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va.; Presentations/Greetings from local churches; Remarks from Mr. J. F. Lewis of the Goyernor's office; Remarks, Mrs. E. N. Finney of the Agriculture Teachers Association; Remarks and Special Award from the town of Appomattox by Mayor H. B. Pack; Special remarks and presentations by the Rev. J. W. Paige, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church; Final remarks by the honoree who presented members of his home church from Petersburg and former students from Richmond, Baltimore and Harrisburg, Pa.; Benediction and closing prayer by Rev. Harrison Kelso. Dinner was served to friends and out of town guest in the Galilee Fellowship Hall. Tribute and words of thanks were given to the planning committee and the pastor and the Scruggs family and all who came and helped in any way to make the program a success.

The evening service sponsored at the Promise Land Baptist Church by the Rivermont Baptist Church was enjoyed by all. The Rev. Harry Pilson delivered a special sermon and music was rendered by his male chorus. The offering was very good.

Regular preaching service will be held at the Galilee Baptist Church this Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Members and friends are urged to be present.

Impressive service was held at the Mount Shiloh Baptist Church last Sunday morning. The pastor was present after a vacation from his pulpit. The service was enjoyed by all. Several visitors were present.

Regular preaching service will be held at the Zion Baptist Church this Sunday at 11 a.m. with pastor L. E. Hankins in charge. At the close of the morning worship a report from the fall rally will be given. All members are urged to take a part.

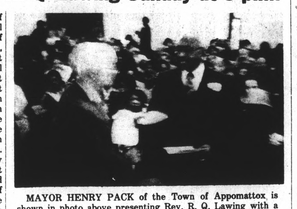
The Ladies Society held its monthly meeting last Sunday evening in the home of deacon and Mrs. Ross Edwards with the president Mrs. Geneva Wiggins presiding. After the regular business session plans were made for our Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. The full membership of the club was present. At the close of the meeting, a delicious dinner was served by the hostess, Mrs. Etta Edwards. Our next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Magnolia Franklin. Mrs. Lizzie Mack and Mrs. Vita Bolden are on the sick list. We were very happy that our senior choir took a part in the choir festival sponsored by the White Oak Grove senior choir.

• • •

Mrs. Maggie Tibbs is still on the sick list. We are very happy to report that Mrs. Lois Goode Bigelow has returned to her home after an operation in the Lynchburg Hospital. Let us continue to pray for the sick everywhere. We are happy to know that Mr. Benny Tyler has returned to his home after special treatment in the Lynchburg hospital. Deacon J. W. King is improving after an operation in the Lynchburg Hospital.

I, R. Q. Lawing, would like to take this opportunity to thank the planning committee, the pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church and his official board, the Scruggs Family Singers, the pastors and all local churches and individual members who took a part in the appreciation service given in my honor last Sunday. Special thanks to all the loyal and faithful members of Galilee, Mount Shiloh and Promise Land for the beautiful music and love offerings presented. With a humble and grateful heart on behalf of my wife and entire family I thank each and every one for your consideration and love. May God's richest blessings abide with you always.

Mr. Mota Wright of Baltimore, Md. is spending some time here with his sister, Mrs. Ada Nowlin.



MAYOR HENRY PACK of the Town of Appomattox is shown in photo above presenting Rev. R. Q. Lawing with a plaque from the Citizens of Appomattox County given in appreciation of his 45 years of dedicated service to Appomattox County - 1932 - 1977.

ROCKS

November 13 - Election Day was held on Tuesday. We had the privilege of voting for the one of our choice. This has been a free one. Many do not have this free privilege. We should exercise our rights and vote when we have a chance.

Cassie Baldwin had her cousin Jim N. Carter, Jr. and Carolyn of Prospect to visit her for a short time on Tuesday. They had been to Alaska recently to see their new grand child.

Aulden Roach entered Lynchburg General Hospital on Wednesday and had surgery on Friday. A speedy recovery is wished him.

Glad to hear Ida Harvey of Pamplin is back home from the hospital after being quite ill.

Rev. A. M. Taylor returned home Wednesday night after conducting a successful mission action campaign in Fredericksburg for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Glover of Crewe were visiting her sister, Mrs. Clarence Richardson on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Oval Stull of Ellis Grove, Ill. arrived last Thursday to visit Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Taylor of Pamplin for a few days. They attended services at Rocks on Sunday.

A representative of the Gideons International spoke at Rocks during the evening service. Also the pastor had his regular service.

Aulden Roach returned home Sunday much improved. Aulden and Louise were missed very much at the services on Sunday and Wednesday night.

Sue Griggs of Forest died at the home of her daughter, Pauline on Saturday. She was a sister-in-law of Mrs. Sallie Evans of Appomattox. Sympathy is extended these families.

Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Taylor will attend the General Association at Newport News the first three days of this week.

The Christmas Play Practice was held this afternoon at 4 p.m.

The Masons and their wives enjoyed a banquet at Appomattox on Friday night.

The Rocks Extension Home Makers Club had charge of the Christmas Open House Week at Appomattox on Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Glenn McIntosh and mother, Mrs. Nellie Roach were in Lynchburg Friday.

Amy and Renee Harris spent the week end in Lynchburg with their aunt Juanita.

A lovely pulpit stand was presented to Rocks in memory of Clarence Richardson by his family. It added so much to the church. It looks like a city church now. The music was great by the different choirs. Girls quintet and a solo by Ruby Almond. The preaching service was great.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynford Cumby of Pamplin attended the funeral of George Fitzgerald of Farmville last week.

The church council met at Maude's Restaurant on Thursday night to make out the budget for the coming year.

Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Wilcox of Roanoke spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Ranson of Pamplin.

Mr. Al Maxwell of Richmond arrived Tuesday to visit his sister, Mrs. Lockie Martin of near Evergreen for awhile.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Elder of Appomattox who have their first grandchild born to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Troy Martin of Spout Spring on October 25 and great grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Graydon Maxwell Sr. of Pamplin.

We hope the rain has helped the wells but the men are worried about the beans and tobacco.

Many farmers have tobacco ready for opening day on November 29. Some have their entire crop ready.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gilliland and children of Eden, N. C. spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frank Ranson of Pamplin.

Many are waiting for the hunting season to open on November 21.

Congratulations to Benny Craig who got a 9 pt. buck with bow and arrow a few days ago.

Robert E. Lee Academy To Have Bake Sale

Students from Robert E. Lee Academy will sponsor a Thanksgiving bake sale beginning at 1 p.m. in front of Kings Market in the Triangle Plaza Shopping Center on Tuesday, November 22nd.

Cakes, pies, cookies, fudge and other baked goods will be offered for sale. Come out, buy some delicious food and support the Academy students at the same time.

JORDAN

All present enjoyed and received a message from the Sunday School Anniversary on last Sunday night. Ms. Lucille Jones of the Mt. Airy Sunday School gave a talk on the duties of the Sunday School teacher. Rev. W. R. Jones bought us the message for the night and the Rising Sun Choir rendered the music.

On Saturday night, November 19, at 7:00 the Spiritual Knights will present part one of their 12th anniversary at the Jordan Baptist Church. Plan now to attend.

BECKHAM

NOV. 11 - Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Parson and Waye Parson recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moore and Timmy Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Martin, Mrs. Geraldine Moore and Gwen Moore were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Moore, Jr.

Mrs. Clyde Moore is spending this week with Mr. H. O. Martin and Mr. Emory Martin. Visiting Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Allen Gardner of Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Abner Martin spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Donald Lee and Miss Eunice Martin.

Mrs. Abner Martin, Mr. Jerry May and Miss Carolyn Morris were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris, Melanie Morris and Mrs. S. G. Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Donald Lee Drinkard, Miss Eunice Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moore, Malanie Morris and Mrs. S. G. Martin visited Mr. and Mrs. Sam Martin and family of Vera Saturday night with other members of the family honoring Mrs. Jutson Morris, Mr. Charles Martin, Mrs. Hermon Moore, Jr. and Mrs. David Martin on their birthdays.

Mrs. Tom Schmutz and Edward visited Mrs. Jack Goin and Allen Thursday.

Extension Clubs Thank Extension Workers

All the Extension Homemakers Clubs in Appomattox County would like to thank the staff at the local Extension Office for help and assistance during the Christmas Open House.

"Christmas Open House," held last week, was one of the most successful ever. A record number of persons stopped by to visit and to see the beautiful decorations and get ideas for their home decorating.

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LARGE TURNIPS - Emmett Harris and his grandson, Russell Franklin, Jr., are shown with large turnips that were grown on the Harris farm in Vera. One weighed five pounds and one weighed 2¾ pounds . . . quite a large meal. Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Franklin, Sr.

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